

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and is therefore claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 was found allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 as amended is therefore allowable.

Claims 2 and 4 are dependent upon claim 1 and are allowable together with claim 1 for reasons set forth above.

Claim 5 was rejected as being unpatentable over Gilmore in view of Hanson et al and Sekura et al.

Claim 5 as amended includes the steps of "recording an oral reminder message in the reminder device for each medication to be taken;" and the step of "entering a month, date and time of day schedule in the reminder device for the times in which the person is to listen to the recorded message and take each dose of medication". The time for taking each dose can be scheduled any selected time in the 24 hours of each day. There are 1440 minutes in each 24 hours and a dose can be scheduled for at least any one of the minutes in the period. Gillmore's dispenser does not record the name of the medication or the size of a dose to be taken. The time of taking a medication is limited to four selected times each day rather than any one of a minimum of 1440 times each day. Hanson et al. does not disclose a clock function. The patient

can play recorded instructions at any time the patient chooses. There is no patient alert at a programmed time. There is no need to identify the medication because the medication container is attached to the device.

Sekura et al. discloses a device with pre-programmed medication-taking regimens for single and multiple medications. The patient selects the regimen by which the medication is to be taken. This system is designed to reduce and simplify programming. It does not provide the flexibility which will be required when doctors and pharmacists design and tailor medications for individual patients. Such programs are being discussed and developed. Applicant's device is designed for the medicine that is under current development.

Claim 5 as amended includes the step of "entering a month, date and any selected time in which the person is to listen to the recorded message and take each dose of medication. This step eliminates the pre-programmed medication-taking regimens. A requirement to store pre-programmed regimens is also eliminated. None of the cited patents disclose or suggest such a step.

Claim 6 was previously canceled.

New claim 7 is a method claim and includes the step of recording an oral message that identifies a medication and the dosage of each medication to be taken and the step of entering the month, date and any selected time of day schedule for taking each medication dose. None of the cited prior art discloses these steps.

This application as amended is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is requested if the application is not found allowable.

Respectfully submitted

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enclosure